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L3: Entry 1 of 1

File: USPT

Jun 7, 2005

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6904362 B2

TITLE: Route guidance system, information delivery center, and vehicular route guidance apparatus

Detailed Description Text (7):

Equipped with a communication device including a transmitter and a receiver, the transmission/reception section 10 communicates with the vehicular apparatus 100 over a network. The network may be a wired or wireless public communications network, a dedicated communication network, the Internet, an intranet, a LAN (local area network), a WAN (wide area network), a satellite communication network, a vehicular telephone network, a cellular phone network, a PHS (personal handy-phone system) network, or a combination thereof. Communication may be by satellite broadcast such as CS broadcast or BS broadcast, ground-wave digital TV broadcast, or FM multiplex broadcast. Communication may also be by optical beacons or radio beacons which are installed alongside roads and which transmit traffic congestion information, regulation-of-traffic information, etc.

Detailed Description Text (12):

The external information collecting section 40 is connected to the database 31. The external information collecting section 40 is a section for updating the information stored in the database 31, as necessary, using telephone lines or the like, latest road/traffic information and communication information such as traffic congestion information, traffic accident information, road construction information, regulation-of-traffic information, information indicating a newly established road or facility, and changes in communication state of a given area, e.g., change from a non-communication area to a communication-defective areas. Each item of traffic congestion information, traffic accident information, road construction information, regulation-of-traffic information, and information indicating a newly established road or facility is collected in the form of a location and a date and time of occurrence and other information. For example, for traffic congestion information, a location and a date and time of occurrence of a traffic jam and other information are collected. The other types of information, such as traffic accident information, are collected in similar manner.

Detailed Description Text (28):

In this embodiment, a route from a vehicle present position to the destination is searched for each time a request is received from the vehicular apparatus 100. In the server 1, the external information collecting section 40 acquires road information and traffic information from external sources and the contents of the database 31 are updated to include the latest information. Therefore, by performing a route search every time a request is received from the vehicular apparatus 100, traffic jam locations, road construction locations, accident locations, and the like can be avoided and hence a recommended route that reflects the latest data and corresponding guidance data can always be supplied to the vehicular apparatus 100.

Detailed Description Text (121):

The database 31 is connected to the external information collecting section 40. The external information collecting section 40 updates the data stored in the database 31 as necessary by collecting, using telephone lines or the like, the latest road/traffic information and communication information such as traffic congestion information, traffic accident information, road construction information, regulation-of-traffic information, information indicating a newly established road or facility, and information as to a change in non-communication areas and communication-defective areas. Each piece of traffic congestion information, traffic accident information, road construction information, regulation-of-traffic information, and information indicating a newly established road or facility is collected in the form of a location and a date and time of occurrence and other information. For example, for traffic congestion information, a location and a date and time of occurrence of a traffic jam and other information are collected.

The other types of information such as traffic accident information are collected in similar fashion.

Detailed Description Text (123):

As a communication device including a transmitter and a receiver, the transmission/reception section 51 exchanges data with the information center 1. Like the transmission/reception section 10 of the information center 1, the transmission/reception section 51 can use a vehicular telephone, cellular phone, PHS, or like communication system. The transmission/reception section 51 is also equipped with a receiver for receiving optical beacon information as route information that is transmitted from beacons which are provided along a road and which transmit, to vehicles, traffic congestion information, regulation-of-traffic information, etc., for a limited area in a system referred to as a VICS (vehicle information and communication system).

Detailed Description Text (147):

In this embodiment, the information center 1 searches for a route from a vehicle present position to the destination every time it receives a request from the vehicular apparatus 2. In the information center 1, the external information collecting section 40 acquires road information, traffic information, etc. from the external sources and the database 31 is updated accordingly. By virtue of a route search performed in response to each request from the vehicular apparatus 2, the information center 1 can supply the vehicular apparatus 2 with a recommended route that has been determined based on the latest data in such a manner as to avoid traffic jams, construction locations, accident locations, and the like, or to use a new road, as well as guidance information for the recommended route.

Detailed Description Text (192):

In this third embodiment, the information center 1 searches for a route from a vehicle present position to a destination every time it receives a request from the vehicular apparatus 2. In the information center 1, the external information collecting section 40 acquires road information, traffic information, etc. from external sources and the database 31 is updated accordingly. By virtue of the procedure that a route search is performed in response to each request from the vehicular apparatus 2, the information center 1 can supply the vehicular apparatus 2 with a recommended route that has been determined based on the latest data and in such a manner as to avoid traffic jams, construction locations, traffic accidents, and the like or to use a new road, as well as guidance information for the recommended route.

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